

12. (Unamended) A speech recognition system in a mobile telephone, the speech recognition system comprising:

means for storing a word vocabulary in trellis tree structure, wherein words in the vocabulary are arranged in a plurality of different groups of words,

word group selection means for enabling a user to speak via voice commands into the mobile telephone to select a first of said plurality of different groups of words, said first group of words being selected based upon at least a word spoken by the user, and

speech recognition means for comparing input speech from a user to words in said selected first group of words, so that comparing of the input speech is performed relative to said selected first group of words prior to comparing the input speech with other of the plurality of different groups of words so that a limited number of groups of the entire vocabulary is searched via said comparing during speech recognition processes.

REMARKS

This is in response to the Office Action dated June 5, 2001. Claims 1-13 are pending, with claims 1, 6 and 12 being independent. Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the claims by the current amendment. The attached page/s is/are captioned "**Version With Markings To Show Changes Made.**"

Claims 1-13 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. Section 103(a) as being allegedly unpatentable over Basore in view of Gupta. This Section 103(a) rejection is respectfully traversed for at least the following reasons.

Claim 1 (and the other pending independent claims) requires selection of a group of words based on a word spoken by a user, and thereafter in subsequent speech recognition processes searching only that selected group of words for recognizing speech input. This means that only a limited number of words needs to be searched during speech recognition, which is a significant advantage over the prior art. Neither Basore nor Gupta disclose or suggest this aspect of claim 1, either alone or in the alleged Section 103(a) combination.

In Basore, a user speaks a command such as "TV Schedule" (col. 4, lines 49-52). Speech recognition unit 128 recognizes this command, which includes a plurality of words, using word models from database 126, 127 (col. 4, line 54 - col. 5, line 7). Once the words "TV Schedule" spoken by the user are recognized in Basore, processor 124 retrieves an appropriate response which in this case is "Which programs this week?" (col. 5, lines 9-22). Thereafter, when the user speaks the command "Help", the processor 124 does not search any pre-selected group of words for recognition, but instead goes back to the database for word recognition. In other words, Basore fails to disclose or suggest selection of a group of words based on a word spoken by a user, and thereafter in subsequent speech recognition processes searching only that selected group of words for recognizing speech input. Basore is unrelated to the instant invention in this regard.


Citation to Gupta cannot overcome the fundamental flaws associated with Basore explained above. Gupta also does not disclose or suggest the aforesaid aspect of the instant invention.

Accordingly, neither Basore nor Gupta discloses or suggests the aforesaid aspect of the instant invention. Even if these references were combined under Section 103(a) (which applicant believes would be incorrect in any event), this aspect of the invention would still not be met.

For at least the foregoing reasons, it is respectfully requested that all rejections be withdrawn and the application passed to issue. If any minor matter remains to be resolved, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned with regard to the same.

Respectfully submitted,

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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

IN THE CLAIMS

1. (Unamended) A speech recognition system in a mobile telephone, the speech recognition system comprising:

a stored vocabulary, wherein words in the vocabulary are arranged in a trellis structure comprising a plurality of different groups of words, and

a word group selection system for enabling a user to speak via voice commands to select at least a first of said plurality of different groups of words, said first group of words being selected based upon at least a word spoken by the user, so that a limited number of groups of the entire vocabulary, less than said plurality, is searched for a word during subsequent speech recognition processes in the mobile telephone after selection of at least the first of said plurality of groups of words.

6. (Amended) A method of speech recognition [in a] comprising:

providing a speech recognition system of a mobile telephone comprising a stored vocabulary, wherein the words in the stored vocabulary are arranged in a trellis structure comprising a [number] plurality of different groups of words[, characterized in that],

providing a word group selection system for enabling a user to speak via voice commands to select at least a first of said plurality of different groups of words, said first group of words being selected based upon at least a word spoken by the user, so that only one group or a limited number of groups of the entire vocabulary less than said plurality

is searched for a word [at each time] during certain subsequent speech recognition processes in the mobile telephone after selection of at least the first of said plurality of groups of words.

12. (Unamended) A speech recognition system in a mobile telephone, the speech recognition system comprising:

means for storing a word vocabulary in trellis tree structure, wherein words in the vocabulary are arranged in a plurality of different groups of words,

word group selection means for enabling a user to speak via voice commands into the mobile telephone to select a first of said plurality of different groups of words, said first group of words being selected based upon at least a word spoken by the user, and

speech recognition means for comparing input speech from a user to words in said selected first group of words, so that comparing of the input speech is performed relative to said selected first group of words prior to comparing the input speech with other of the plurality of different groups of words so that a limited number of groups of the entire vocabulary is searched via said comparing during speech recognition processes.